

Test Beforehand, Don't Guess

Optimal plant growth requires specific soil pH and nutrient levels. These requirements vary with soil type, nutrient source, crop and weather. Even so, meeting known soil requirements can be pointless if populations of plant-parasitic nematodes are above threshold levels.

Given the expense of agricultural inputs, there is no reason to waste money by guessing. RAs can suggest proper tests and sampling strategies. Clients can be confident that they are putting out just the right amount of nutrients and applying nematicides only when necessary, thereby protecting the bottom line as well as the environment.

Monitor Plant Nutrition Regularly

Throughout the growing season, RAs help clients monitor the nutritional status of crops. They can suggest routine testing programs to prevent deficiencies, optimize yields and accurately time harvest. They often troubleshoot to find a reason for nutrient problems, whether it be soil pH, type of fertilizer material, irrigation water quality, nematodes or uneven application.

Be Mindful of the Environment

In recent years, RAs have become increasingly involved in nutrient management issues from an environmental standpoint. They help write nutrient management plans associated with animal and municipal waste application, evaluate receiver sprayfields for compliance with agronomic requirements, and have been instrumental in developing realistic

yield expectations for field crops. For best management nutrient practices, remember to consult your regional agronomist.

For additional information, contact

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Field Services

*Providing Advice
on Plant Nutrient Issues &
Nematode Management*



N.C. Department of Agriculture
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Steve Troxler, Commissioner